U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY
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CMA NEWS

January 2011

CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

as of January 3, 2011:

Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.: Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) work force began changeover activities this month after 4.2-inch mustard-filled mortar disposal operations ended. The work force is preparing to demilitarize mustard-filled 155mm projectiles. Each projectile weighs approximately 100 pounds and holds approximately 12 pounds of agent. The ANCDF work force has emptied 128 storage igloos and reduced its stockpile by nearly 94 percent. Overall, ANCDF has safely processed more than 2,017 tons of chemical nerve and mustard agent and more than 620,100 chemical munitions.

Blue Grass Chemical Activity, Ky.: Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) continues the safe storage of 523 tons of chemical weapons. BGCA is storing the remaining U.S. inventory of M55 rockets that contain nerve agents GB and VX. BGCA will continue to provide maximum protection to the community until demilitarization is complete.

Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah: Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) has safely destroyed 5,691 mustard agent-filled ton containers, 54,453 mustard agent-filled 155 mm projectiles and 63,274 mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars. Overall, TOCDF has processed more than 89 percent of the Deseret Chemical Depot's mustard agent stockpile, and more than 94 percent of its original agent tonnage.

Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, Ark.: Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) notified the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality that site closure activities have commenced, as well as closure for the idle Deactivation Furnace System. The Pine Bluff team has worked more than four million hours consecutively without a lost work day. The transition office continues to assist personnel with future career opportunities. Mr. Hunter Lutinski, Director of the on-site inspectors for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the deputy, Mr. Charles Rice, toured PBCDF and recognized several individuals involved in treaty activities.

Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo.: Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) stores mustard-filled munitions, 105 mm projectiles and cartridges, 155 mm projectiles and 4.2-inch mortar cartridges. Current operations include leaker isolation operations and the installation of filters on all storage igloo doors and stacks within the Chemical Limited Area. Construction has begun on a company fire station near the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant site. The tentative completion date for the fire station is mid July 2011.

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.: Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) is working on installation of a Rinsate Collection System to process agent-related liquid wastes through the plant's Liquid Incinerator system, with startup expected in spring 2011. UMCDF has eliminated 1,120 ton containers of mustard agent and destroyed 64 percent of Umatilla's original chemical agent stockpile. The UMCDF anticipates completing agent disposal operations by the end of 2011.

Anniston Chemical Activity employees are responsible for the safe storage and delivery of the chemical munitions stored in Anniston Army Depot ammunition igloos.

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency 2010 Year in Review

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) achieved many milestones in 2010 including: 75 percent destruction of the overall chemical weapons stockpile, all non-stockpile treaty milestones were achieved and the four remaining CMA chemical weapons destruction sites are in their final campaigns. Most importantly, all of these accomplishments were reached safely. As we begin another year with safety in the forefront, let's take a look back at some of the sites' individual accomplishments from 2010:

Anniston, Ala. – safely reached destruction of 87 percent of its chemical weapons stockpile; selected for inclusion into the State of Alabama's Engineering Hall of Fame in 2011.

Blue Grass, Ky. – completed the annual inspection by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) that successfully accounted for 100 percent of the declared stockpile at Blue Grass Army Depot; passed Chemical Surety Inspection (CSI) with no facility deficiencies identified.

Newport, Ind. – Newport Chemical Depot received notification from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management officially closing the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit; the Depot was turned over to the Department of the Army Base Realignment and Closure.

Pine Bluff, Ark. – surpassed four million consecutive man-hours without a lost day; successfully destroyed all of the remaining chemical weapons that were stored at the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity.

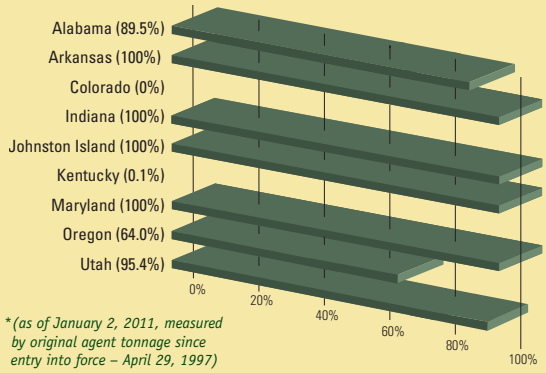
Pueblo, Colo. – successfully completed their annual inspection by the OPCW with 100 percent accountability of the declared stockpile at Pueblo Chemical Depot; completed the X-ray operations of 540 overpacked mustard munitions.

Deseret, Utah – safely reached destruction of 94 percent of its chemical weapons stockpile; achieved nine million man-hours without a lost work day; earned an exceptionally low Recordable Injury Rate of 1.1.

Umatilla, Ore. – successfully completed its CSI; processed its 1,000th mustard-filled ton container as 63 percent of its stockpile was destroyed.

Non-Stockpile – Pine Bluff Explosive Destruction System – completed destruction operations of all recovered chemical warfare materiel formerly stored at Pine Bluff; successfully completed repackaging and non-intrusive assessment of 144 munitions recovered at Columboola, Australia.

CMA - U.S. CHEMICAL AGENT STOCKPILE DESTROYED



**(as of January 2, 2011, measured by original agent tonnage since entry into force – April 29, 1997)*

82.2%
*of U.S. Chemical Agent stockpile destroyed**

CMA NEWS | January 2011

Col. John Megnia (left), Director of Stockpile Operations, U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency and Lt. Col. Robert Wittig, Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) Commander, along with other leadership staff from PCD toured the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant construction site on Nov. 30. Here they are seen in the Agent Processing Building learning about the neutralization process.

UMCD Wins Command Safety Award

Last month the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) won the 2010 US Army Materiel Command's U.S. Army Exceptional Organization Safety Award. This honor is awarded each fiscal year to the battalion with the most effective overall safety program through division and garrison organizations.

"The team work displayed by the UMCD work force to improve their safety culture should serve as an example for the rest of the Army's materiel enterprise," said Conrad F. Whyne, Director, U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency. "The Umatilla program not only involves the depot leadership but focuses on engaging all employees to help reduce the frequency and severity of accidents and incidents."

Another highlight of UMCD's safety culture is the Safety Leadership Program team, which takes a proactive approach to safety, rather than a reactive approach. The Safety Office also hosts a safety stand-down twice a year to review conditions and circumstances that may cause injuries. Additionally, UMCD employees are required to complete ergonomic, fire extinguisher, personal protective equipment and active shooter scenario training.

UMCD Commander Lt. Col. Kris Perkins expressed pride and admiration for his employees. "During the past several years, UMCD has worked hard to improve safety awareness, reduce accidents and prevent injuries. Change doesn't happen overnight and it takes everyone working together to meet safety goals. Our most significant achievement is that employees take ownership for safety," said Perkins.

UMCD will now compete against other Army command nominees; the winner will be announced in spring 2011.

VX Secondary Waste Operations Near Completion

Workers in Deseret Chemical Depot's (DCD) Area 10 have completed monitoring and sorting VX nerve agent contaminated wastes. Since secondary waste operations began more than a year ago, nearly 500,000 pounds of VX waste has been safely shipped off site to a permitted hazardous waste landfill.

Now focused on GB nerve agent contaminated wastes, workers use a ventilated glove box called the Drum Ventilation System to monitor and sort the wastes. The level of agent contamination determines how the waste will be processed.

Secondary wastes with monitoring results below permitted levels and below the waste control limit, 20 parts per billion for VX and GB, may be shipped off site to a permitted hazardous waste landfill. If agent readings are at or above permitted levels, the waste drum is thermally treated in an autoclave system, which uses heat and steam at temperatures of about 300 degrees Fahrenheit to lower the contamination level to allow the treated waste to be shipped off site.

Operators monitored and sorted 5,200 drums of VX related secondary wastes. Of the secondary waste monitored above the permitted levels, 2,424 drums have safely been treated in the autoclave with 7,622 drums remaining. Workers expect to complete VX secondary waste autoclave operations early this year and will then move onto the GB nerve agent related waste.

OFFICE SAFETY TIPS

In the office, slips, trips and falls are the number one cause of disabling injuries. You can prevent many of these accidents by working safety smart. Here are examples of common hazards and ways to prevent them from causing accidents:

- *Be careful leaning back in your chair. Keep all chair legs on the floor so that you don't end up there.*
- *Keep the floor and walkways clear of cables and cords to avoid tripping.*
- *Close one drawer in a filing cabinet before opening another one to prevent the cabinet from tipping over on you.*
- *Clean up spilled drinks or water from umbrellas to prevent slippery surfaces.*
- *Don't read while walking. The time saved does not justify the risk.*
- *Don't climb on chairs, desks or boxes. Use a step ladder or stepstool instead.*
- *Hold onto handrails when using stairs.*

ANCDF Completes Disposal of Mustard-Filled Mortars

The Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) concluded its mustard-filled mortar disposal campaign this month. With the end of the mortar campaign comes a two to three week pause in disposal operations as the work force methodically conducts a series of changeover activities to prepare to demilitarize Anniston's stockpile of mustard-filled 155mm projectiles. Each projectile weighs approximately 100 pounds and holds about 12 pounds of agent.

Managers point out a relatively small number of mortars will not be processed in the ANCDF. The leftover mortars, which cannot be readily processed by the automated equipment in the ANCDF, are scheduled to be disposed of at the Static Detonation Chamber (SDC). The SDC was purchased, delivered and assembled last year. It is being tested according to Alabama environmental permit requirements prior to being put into service to handle Anniston's leftover chemical munitions.

ANCDF employees started processing 4.2-inch mustard-filled mortars in July 2009. Seventeen months later, ANCDF has completed processing more than 258,000 mortars. The site has now demiltarized more than 86 percent of Anniston mustard-filled munitions.

Since ANCDF demilitarization operations began in August 2003, the Anniston stockpile has been safely reduced by more than 620,100 rockets, land mines, artillery shells, and mortars.

"Since the very beginning," Timothy K. Garrett, ANCDF government site project manager, said, "our professional and well-trained team has safely reduced the Anniston stockpile by almost 94 percent. I am confident we will be just as safe down the home stretch."

Besides 155mm projectiles, the Anniston chemical munitions stockpile still includes 105mm projectiles and large ton containers which hold approximately 170 gallons of mustard agent. Based upon current processing rates, Garrett believes the local chemical munitions stockpile will be completely demilitarized by this summer.

During the mustard agent disposal campaign, the Anniston team has tested new equipment—the Linear Projectile Mortar Disassembly (LPMD) system—on behalf of the U.S. Army Element Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program for munitions stored in Colorado and Kentucky. The LPMD is an "off-the-shelf" robotic system adapted to remove energetics and fuzes from chemical munitions. Reliability and maintenance data collected in Anniston will be evaluated and used to support future demilitarization work at the Colorado Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

CMA News is produced by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency Public Affairs Office.
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